

North-West (Rice Lake) *Build Wisconsin* Regional Workshop Small Group Record

Small Group _____ Double Red _____ (color)

Facilitator _____ Larry MacDonald _____

Recorder-Reporter ____ Julianne Raymond & Donnna Barnes-Haesemeyer

Top 10 responses to the question: “What can the State do to foster economic growth in your region?”

Priority response #1 (votes: _5_)

Expand C-Bed with Add'l funding and broader applications

Priority response #2 (votes: __5_)

Equalize and improve high-speed internet access for business and educational applications

Priority response #3 (votes: __4_)

Provide better access to economic development assistance for really rural counties in the region

Priority response #4 (votes: __4_)

Reduce un-funded state mandates to allow reduced property taxes

Priority response #5 (votes: __3_)

Promote the state regionally and nationally

Priority response #6 (votes: __3_)

Provide health insurance options/supplement for small businesses

Priority response #7 (votes: _3_)

Reduce/consolidate number of government units

Priority response #8 (votes: __2_)

Increase funding for WTCS

Priority response #9 (votes: __2_)

Provide start-up capital/loan guarantees from gaming fund

Priority response #10 (votes: __2_)

Provide incentives for all government and educational cooperations

Priority response #11 (votes: __2_)

Keep highway, railroads, air transportation fully intact

“Actions Necessary to Achieve our Ideas” Exercise

“If we want to accomplish this [priority issue #1], what does “the State” (as defined earlier) have to do now?”

Priority Issue #1 Expand C-Bed (Community Based Economic Development) with Add'l funding and broader applications

Responses to the question: “If we want to accomplish this [priority issue], what does “the State” (as defined earlier) have to do now?”

- Increase funding limits in various program areas, e.g. planning grants, revolving loan funds
- Allow flexibility to account for regional differences
- Allow for land acquisition and development

Priority Issue #2 Equalize and improve high-speed internet access for business and educational applications

- Ask public utilities commission for help
- Economic (tax) incentives for broadband service providers
- Ask for federal funding to accommodate rural areas
- Develop long term strategy to support technology users in rural areas

Priority Issue #3 Provide better access to economic development assistance for really rural counties in the region

- Technical assistance
- Funding
- Tribal government involvement in planning
- More outreach

Priority Issue #4 Reduce unfunded state mandates to allow reduced property taxes

- Examples:
 - Smart Growth
 - County Mandates
 - Education/School Mandates
 - DNR wastewater system requirements